

Taruma language

Taruma (*Taruamá*) is a divergent language of northeastern Brazil. It has been reported to be extinct several times since as far back as 1770, but Eithne Carlin discovered the last speakers living among the Wapishana, and is documenting the language. It would seem that "Saluma" is the same language.

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Classification

Taruma is unclassified.^[1] It has been proposed to be distantly related to Katembri (Kaufman 1990), but this relationship has not been repeated in recent surveys of South American languages (Campbell 2012).^[3]

History

Taruma was spoken around the mouth of the Rio Negro during the late 1600s, but the speakers later moved to southern Guyana. Around the 1920s, Taruma speakers ceased having their own ethnic identity.^[4]

Language contact

Jolkesky (2016) notes that there are lexical similarities with the Chibchan, Katukina-Katawixi, Arawak, Jeoromitxi, Tupi, Arawa, Jivaro, Karib, Mura-Matanawi, Tukano, Yanomami, and Kwaza language families due to contact.^[5]

Similarities with Chibchan (especially with the Magdalena and Dorasque-Changena subgroups) may be due to the former presence of Chibchan speakers in the Northeast Amazons.^{[5]:327} Similarities with Tucanoan suggest that Taruma had originated in the Caquetá basin.^{[5]:348}

Vocabulary

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items.^[6]

Taruma	
Native to	Guyana, formerly Brazil
Region	South of Aishalton
Native speakers	one family (as of 2009) ^[1]
Language family	Katembri–Taruma ? <div>▪ Taruma</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tdm
Linguist List	qoi (http://multitree.org/codes/qoi)
Glottolog	taru1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/taru1236) ^[2]

gloss	Taruma
one	oshiwai
two	dzyowa
three	mikyahahi
head	a-dam
eye	a-tsi
man	gika
water	za
fire	fwa
sun	hwa
jaguar	dun
house	duiya

For a list of Taruma words from Jolkesky (2016),^[5] see the corresponding [Portuguese article](#).

Further reading

- [Meira, Sérgio](#). (2015). *Taruma wordlist*. (Manuscript).

Notes

1. Carlin 2011 (p. 11 12)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Taruma" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/linguoid/id/taru1236>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. [Campbell, Lyle](#) (2012). "Classification of the indigenous languages of South America". In Grondona, Verónica; Campbell, Lyle (eds.). *The Indigenous Languages of South America*. The World of Linguistics. **2**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 59–166. [ISBN 9783110255133](#).
4. Campbell, Lyle. 2018. *Language Isolates*. New York: Routledge.
5. Jolkesky, Marcelo Pinho de Valhery (2016). *Estudo arqueo-ecolinguístico das terras tropicais sul-americanas* (<http://www.etnolinguistica.org/tese:jolkesky-2016-arqueoecolinguistica>) (Ph.D. dissertation) (2 ed.). Brasília: University of Brasília.
6. Loukotka, Čestmír (1968). *Classification of South American Indian languages* (<https://archive.org/details/classificationof0007louk>). Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center.

References

- Eithne B. Carlin (2011) "Nested Identities in the Southern Guyana Surinam Corner". In Hornborg & Hill (eds.) *Ethnicity in Ancient Amazonia*.
- Eithne B. Carlin (2006) "Feeling the Need: The Borrowing of Cariban Functional Categories into Mawayana (Arawak)". In Aikhenvald & Dixon (eds.) *Grammars in Contact: A Cross-Linguistic Typology*, pp. 313–332. Oxford University Press.

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